

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A phosphate of cellulose II, ~~Cellulose II phosphate~~
which cellulose II may be partly carbamidated, wherein said phosphate of cellulose II has a
degree of phosphorylation of from 3 to 20 wt%.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A process for producing the phosphate of cellulose II
phosphate according to claim 1, which may be partly carbamidated, which comprises reacting
a phosphorus oxide, a phosphoric acid halide, or a phosphoric acid or a salt thereof [[to]] with
cellulose II which may be partially carbamidated.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method of adsorbing metal ions in a solution,
comprising adsorbing said metal ions using said phosphate of cellulose II according to claim
1 as a metal-adsorbing material comprising cellulose II phosphate which may be partly
carbamidated.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A metal-adsorbing system comprising the phosphate
of cellulose II phosphate which may be partly carbamidated according to claim 1.

Claim 5 (Original): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein said
metal-adsorbing material is packed in a column.

Claim 6 (Original): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein said
metal-adsorbing material is in a form of a bag.

Claim 7 (Original): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein said metal-adsorbing material is in a form of a cylinder or fabric and is arranged inside a water storage tank.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An anion-adsorbing material comprising a metal salt of the phosphate of cellulose II phosphate according to claim 1 ~~which may be partly carbamidated.~~

Claim 9 (New): A phosphate of cellulose II according to claim 1, which has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 10 (New): A phosphate of cellulose II according to claim 1, which has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

Claim 11 (New): A process according to claim 2, wherein the phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 12 (New): A process according to claim 2, wherein the phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

Claim 13 (New): A method according to claim 3, wherein the phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 14 (New): A method according to claim 3, wherein the phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

Claim 15 (New): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein the phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 16 (New): A metal-adsorbing system according to claim 4, wherein the phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

Claim 17 (New): An anion-adsorbing material according to claim 8, wherein the phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of phosphorylation of from 8 to 20 wt%.

Claim 18 (New): An anion-adsorbing material according to claim 8, wherein the phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of carbamidation of from 0 to 6.8 wt% in terms of nitrogen content.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by rearranging the recital of the cellulose II phosphate to clarify that it is the cellulose II that is partly carbamidated, as supported in the specification at paragraph [0019], and to recite that said phosphate of cellulose II has a degree of phosphorylation of from 3 to 20 wt%, as supported in the specification at paragraph [0020].

The remaining original claims have been amended to be consistent with the above-discussed amendment to Claim 1. In addition, Claim 2 has been amended to depend on Claim 1. Claim 3 has been amended into a method claim, and to depend on Claim 1. Claim 4 has been amended to depend on Claim 1. Claim 8 has been amended to depend on Claim 1.

New Claims 9-18 have been added, and are supported in the specification at paragraph [0020]. No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-18 are now pending in the application.